

PLEDGE TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ONLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN LIFE SCIENCES RESEARCH

We support the establishment of an online public library that would provide the full contents of the published record of research and scholarly discourse in medicine and the life sciences research in a freely accessible, fully searchable, interlinked form. Establishment of this public library would vastly increase the accessibility and utility of the scientific literature, enhance scientific productivity, and catalyze integration of the disparate communities of knowledge and ideas in biomedical sciences.

We recognize that the publishers of our scientific journals have a legitimate right to a fair financial return for their role in scientific communication. We believe, however, that the permanent, archival record of scientific research and ideas should neither be owned nor controlled by publishers, but should belong to the public, and should be freely available through an international online public library.

To encourage the publishers of our journals to support this endeavor, we pledge that, beginning in September, 2001, we will publish in, edit or review for, and personally subscribe to, only those scholarly and scientific journals that have agreed to grant unrestricted free distribution rights to any and all original research reports that they have published, through PubMed Central and similar online public resources, within 6 months of their initial publication date.

Signed:

Note: We recognize that some scientists may agree in principle with this pledge, but have practical concerns about limiting their options for publishing their research, depending on the extent of support that this pledge receives from their scientific peers. Signatures on this letter are provisional until May 1, 2001, when we intend to publish this open letter. Until that time, your signature represents an agreement in principle, and can be withdrawn. We would be grateful if you would still be willing to have your support made public, as your leadership by example will encourage others to give similar support. If you would like your support to remain strictly confidential until your commitment is definite, we will honor that request. [Note: None of the individuals listed below have asked their signatures be kept confidential].

Please return signed copies to Pat Brown, Department of Biochemistry, Stanford University School of Medicine

Here's a recent list of people who have signed or agreed to sign the pledge:

Robert (Buzz) Baldwin, Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry, Stanford
David Botstein, Professor, Dept of Genetics, Stanford
Patrick O. Brown, Associate professor, Dept. of Biochemistry, Stanford
Michael Eisen, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley
Pehr Harbury, Assistant professor, Dept. of Biochemistry, Stanford
Dan Herschlag, Associate professor, Dept. of Biochemistry, Stanford
Dale Kaiser, Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry, Stanford
Arthur Kornberg, Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry, Stanford
David Lipman, Director, NCBI
Suzanne Pfeffer, Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry, Stanford
Michael Rexach, Assistant professor, Dept. of Biology, Stanford
Julie Theriot, Assistant professor, Dept. of Biochemistry, Stanford
John Carpenter, senior research associate, Stanford Genome Center
Don He, postdoc, Stanford Biochemistry Dept.
Xin Chen, postdoc, Stanford Biochemistry Dept.
Mark Metzstein, postdoc, Stanford Biochemistry Dept.
John Dawsno, postdoc, Stanford Biochemistry Dept.
Marianne Dieckmann, research associate, Stanford Biochemistry Dept.
Evelyn Parker, research associate, Stanford Biochemistry Dept.
James Spudich, Professor of Biochemistry and Director of the Clark Center for Biomedical Engineering and Sciences
Matthew Scott, Professor of Developmental Biology, Stanford
Greg Barsh, Associate professor of Pediatrics and Genetics, Stanford
Roel Nusse, Professor of Developmental Biology, Stanford
Ron Vale, Professor, UCSF
Joe DeRisi, Assistant Professor, UCSF
Steve Smith, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, Stanford
Uta Francke, Professor of Genetics, Stanford
Chaitan Khosla, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering, Stanford
Mark Davis, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Stanford
Harold Varmus, President, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Others at UCSF:

Matt Bogyo	Hiten Madhani	Dyche Mullins	Didier Stainier	Tom Kornberg
Graeme Davis	Regis Kelly	Cynthia Kenyon	Liz Blackburn	David Agard

Hoa Li Robert Fletterick Patrick O'Farrell Carol Gross John Watson Robert
Stroud